



## The Mescalero Apache of the US

The Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation is located in the south central part of the State of New Mexico, in Otero County. The Reservation was established by presidential order in 1873 and currently consists of 460,661 acres, covering 720 square miles of land, running 27 miles from north to south and 36 miles from east to west at its widest point.

Four thousand tribal members live on the reservation, which for the most part is lushly timbered and is the site of several significant tribal business ventures. These include Ski Apache, one of the largest and best equipped ski areas in the Southwest. This internationally known area accommodates 300,000 visitors a year and is valued at \$30 million. The reservation is also home of the Inn of the Mountain Gods, a \$20 million luxury resort complex, which has been operating since 1975 and is a major factor in Southeastern New Mexico's tourist economy. The Inn seasonally employs up to 300 people, one third of whom are tribal members, as well as others coming from Ruidoso, Capitan and Tularosa.

The Tribal Government consists of an eight member Tribal Council, which is a self-governing organization. The Council has an elected president and vice president. Officials serve a two-year term. Four Council members are elected each year by secret ballot. The Council approves fiscal matters and policies for operations, law and order and business enterprises. The Secretary of the US Department of the Interior may review legal or budget decisions.

The majority of the people follow tribal religious practices. Although Christianity was established among the Mescalero in 1889, the Church has experienced very little growth.

**Primary Religion:**

Tribal Religion

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

16%

**Churches:**

>3

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

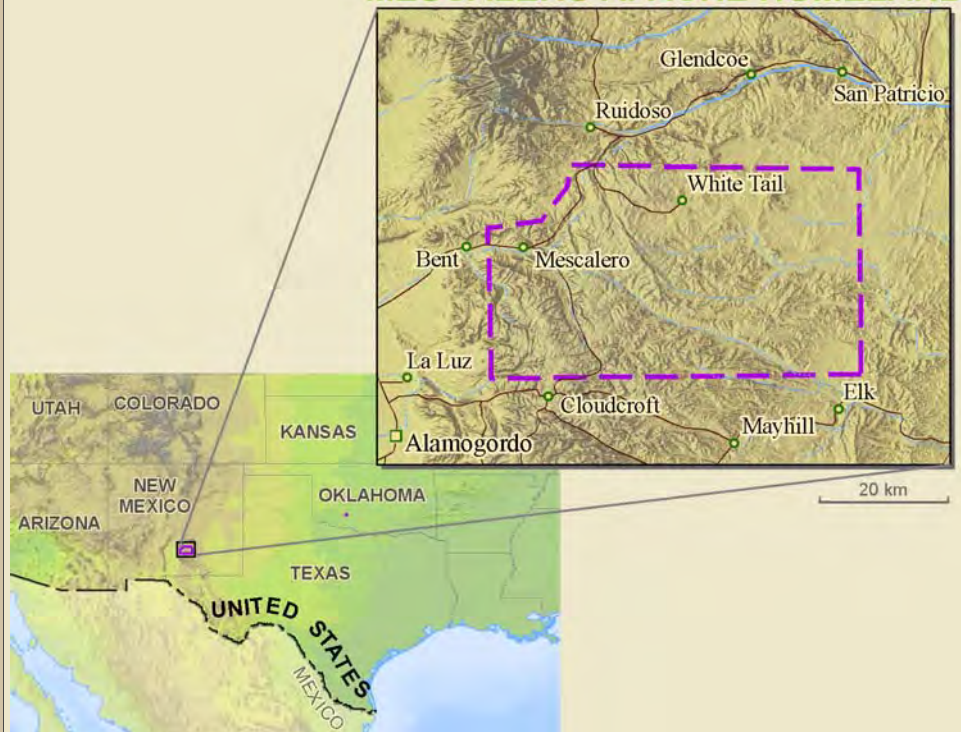
None in this language

**Population (date):**

4,000 (2003)



### MESCALERO APACHE HOMELAND



# The Mescalero Apache of the US

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	16%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	84%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Antagonistic To Hearing About Jesus (%)	20%	
Number Of Pastors	5	
Number Of Communities	There is only one community.	
Number Of Churches	>3	
Comment (Churches)	Three churches are well established, but there are more.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Bible translators needed.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	4,000	
World Population (Date)	2003	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	United States	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	The Mescalero Apache is located in Otero County which is in the south-central area of the state of New Mexico.	
Country	United States	
Ecosystem Type	Deciduous Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain, Slope	
Elevation	6,635 feet.	
Longitude	W105.8	
Latitude	N33.2	
Climate	There are four seasons: winter from January through March, spring from April through June, summer from July through September and autumn from October through December. The temperature during winter can be as low as 25F and during the summer it can be as high as 90F. ..... .....	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	Apache, Mescalero-chiricahua	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Indifferent	
Percent Monolingual (%)	0%	
Linguistically Related Languages	Navajo	
Active Language Programs	Yes	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	10%	
Percent Literate For Men	12%	
Percent Literate For Women	8%	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	

# The Mescalero Apache of the US

## Item Name

## Item Note

Publications In Vernacular

There is a church song book

## Economics

## Group Description

Subsistence Type

Hunter-gatherers

Subsistence Type

Fishers

Occupation

Various U.S. Government jobs; working at ski resort, casino and saw mill.

Income Sources

Occupation and crafts.

Products / Crafts

Beadwork, paintings, sculpture.

Modernization / Utilities

Television (cable & satellite), refrigerators, computers.

## Community Development

## Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Health Care)

Hospital staffed with new doctors who leave after a few years of experience.

Diet (Quality)

Good

Water (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Water)

Water is healthy for local residents only. Visitors should use bottled water only.

Shelter Description

Houses are made with stucco or wood with shingle roofs. The exterior of some homes are partially covered with a decorative, veneer rock.

Electricity

100% of the homes have electricity.

Energy/Fuel (Quality)

Very good

Comment (Energy)

Fuel is propane which is produced by a local tribal company.

Clothing

Western clothing is used except for ceremonials.

Transportation

Trucks and cars, plus there is a public bus that runs on a schedule to serve the local area.

Life Expectancy

Male 50, Female 60.

Leading Cause Of Death

Alcohol consumption.

Comment (Community Development)

The tribe also owns a telephone company.

## Society & Culture

## Group Description

Family Structures

Husband is the head of the house. Ancestry is traced through both the mother and father.

Authority / Rule

Tribal council.

Social Habits/Groupings

After marriage, the couple may live with the wife's family until they are financially able to move into their own home.

Cultural Change Pace

Slow

Identification With National Culture

Similar

Self Image

Prestigious

Judicial / Punishment System

Felonies handled by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Lesser crimes are handled by the tribal court.

Celebrations

July 4th: a four-day ceremonial for girls entering puberty.

Recreations

Basketball and volleyball for men and women.

Art Forms

Painting and sculpture.

Media

Monthly newsletter.

Attitude To Outsiders

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Change

Indifferent

# The Mescalero Apache of the US

## Item Name

History Of People Group

## Item Note

The best way to view the history of the Mescalero Apache is to observe a biographical sketch of its leaders:

Cochise, chief of the central Chiricahua in Arizona, was one of the most famous Apache leaders to resist intrusions by the whites into the southwestern United States during the 19th Century. Not hostile to whites at first, he kept peace with the Anglo-Americans until 1861, when he became their implacable foe because of the blunder of a young U.S. Army officer, Lt. George Brascom.

Naiche was born into the Chokonen band of Chiricahuas Apaches around 1856-1858. He was the youngest son of Chief Cochise. Taza was Naiche's full brother, both being the sons of Cochise and his wife Dos-teh-seh, daughter of Mangas Coloradas. After the sudden death of his brother Taza in 1876, he became the last chief of the "free" Chiricahuas. Naiche became chief of the Chokonen upon the death of Cochise in 1874, a position for which he had not been trained.

Geronimo was born in 1829, in what is today western New Mexico, but was then still Mexican Territory. Mexican Soldiers reportedly gave him the name 'Geronimo'. Geronimo, who was a Bedonkohe Apache Leader of the Chiricahua Apache, led his people's defense of their homeland against the U.S. military after the death of Cochise. Wendell Chino had an unshakeable vision for his people. He wanted them to move into the modern world, yet preserve their traditions. At the age of 28, he was elected chairman of the Tribal Governing Committee, the highest elective office on the reservation at the time. Later, the Tribal Constitution was changed to call for the election of a Tribal President. Mr. Chino won the first election and was re-elected every two years for a total of 17 times. He led the Mescalero Apache Tribe for 43 years. His grandson serves as the present tribal president.

## Youth

## Group Description

Youth Problems (Teens)

Gangs, drugs and alcohol.

Youth Greatest Needs (teens)

Social and educational programs.

Comment (Youth)

The youth view Christianity as an invasion.

## Education

## Group Description

Primary Schools

1

Comment (Primary Schools)

K-5

Secondary Schools

1

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled

90%

Language Of Instruction Early Years

English

Language Of Textbooks Early Years

English

Language Of Instruction Later Years

English

Language Of Textbooks Later Years

English

## Church Growth

## Status of Christianity

Reached Status

Engaged

Reached Classification

Evangelized

Comment (Church Growth)

The churches have been established for a long time, but there has been very little growth.

## Religion & Response

## Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

Apache religion, by providing an organized view of the universe, serves to establish an orderly relationship between man and his surroundings. The Apache view of the universe results in very close and intimate relations, not only with the world of the supernatural, but also with animals, plants and other aspects of nature. Practically every act of daily life is a matter of religious significance.

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat resistant

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat resistant

# The Mescalero Apache of the US

## Item Name

Recommended Approaches

## Item Note

Work closely with the non-Christian leaders in order to gain their confidence and convince them that Jesus is not a threat to their culture. On the other hand, it must be clearly understood that Jesus will not tolerate another religion. He is the only way to be saved. Also, the young people can be reached through sports. A Christian basketball coach may win more souls than a missionary.

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Items For Prayer

Godly social and educational programs will be started that will attract the youth. Soon, a translator will be assigned to this people group.

## History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began

1889

By Whom

Roman Catholic Church

## Status of Christianity

## Scripture

Translation Status

Possible

Available Scripture

None

Uncertain Need Explained

Literacy at 10% but people are interested.

## Status of Christianity

## Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Reformed

Country Of Origin

USA

Main Ministry

Evangelism

Year Started

1907

Number Of Adherents

160

Number Of Congregations

1

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Country Of Origin

USA

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1889

Number Of Adherents

300

Number Of Congregations

1

Organization Name

Assemblies of God

Country Of Origin

USA

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1953

Number Of Adherents

100

Number Of Congregations

1

## Status of Christianity